



white bass

Morone chrysops

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Perciformes
Order:	Moronidae

Features

The average white bass is nine to 15 inches long and one-fourth to 1 1/4 pounds. The Iowa state record weighed about 3 3/4 pounds and was 20 inches long. It has a deep body that is flattened side to side, two dorsal fins, spines in the anal and dorsal fins, and a spine on the gill cover. The body is blue-gray on the back and silver on the sides. The dorsal, anal, and tail fins are slate gray. The eyes are yellow. The sides have dark stripes, but they may be hard to see. The first stripe below the lateral line (sensory organ on the side of the fish) is not continuous; it has spaces between the dark sections. Teeth are present on the back of the tongue.

Natural History

The white bass lives in lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, preferring those with a sand or rock bottom. It lives in schools that hunt together. It feeds near the surface in the early morning and late evening, eating fish and insects. Small fish sometimes may be seen jumping

out of the water to avoid being eaten by this predator. It reaches maturity at two to three years. It moves to shallow tributary streams to spawn April through mid-June. The female deposits as many as 933,000 sticky eggs, which are scattered and attach to the bottom. Eggs hatch in two to five days. The white bass seldom lives longer than four years.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; Mississippi River; Missouri River; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, southeast Iowa, and natural lakes in Dickinson County

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.